

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 9-13 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1 and 9 are amended and claims 12 and 13 are newly added.

Claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by any one of the patents to Nagashima et al., Amundson, Jr. and Kakuda et al. These grounds for rejection are overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 9 that delete the iron and lead oxide additives as well as the iron sulfate additive. Nagashima et al. disclose only the addition of metal oxides to the glass formulation. Because the subject invention, as defined by claims 1 and 9, no longer discloses the use of lead oxide or lithium oxide, there is no overlap with Nagashima et al. Nagashima et al. do not disclose or suggest any of the additives remaining in claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Nagashima et al. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and claim 10 depends from claim 9. Accordingly, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Nagashima et al. for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 9.

Similarly, Amundson, Jr. discloses only the use of metal oxide additives or a selenium additive. He does not disclose or suggest any of the additives currently claimed in amended claims 1 and 9. As set forth above, because claims 1 and 9 have been amended to delete the iron and lead oxide additives, these claims as well as claims 3 and 10 which depend from them are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Amundson, Jr.

Kakuda et al. disclose the addition of Sodium oxide, oxides of barium, lead, boron, lithium, iron, cobalt, chromium, nickel, arsenic, aluminum, calcium, magnesium. They also disclose the addition of selenium or fluorine. Kakuda et al. do not, however, disclose or suggest the use of any of the additives now claimed in amended claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9 as well as claims 3 and 10 which depend from them, are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Kakuda et al.

Newly added claims 12 and 13 are method claims which correspond to composition claims 1 and 9, respectively. Because claims 1 and 9 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Nagashima et al., Amundson, Jr. or Kakuda et al., claims 12 and 13

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are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Nagashima et al., Amundson, Jr. or Kakuda et al.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the statement in the Office Action that claim 4 is allowed and the statement that claim 11 would be allowed if redrafted to be independent in form including all of the limitations of its base claim. Because claim 1 is no longer subject to rejection, however, there is no need to amend claim 11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 11 and the rejection of claims 1, 3, 9 and 10.

Respectfully submitted,



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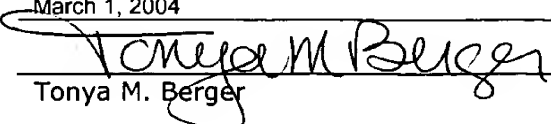
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